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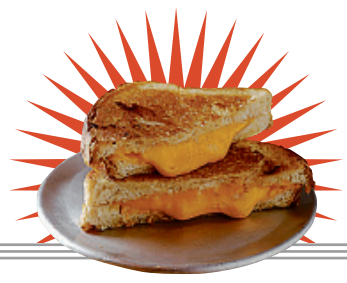

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THE BUFFALO NEWS

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Virus reaches pandemic status as its impact cascades globally

New York Times

A technologist demonstrates a COVID-19 test processing procedure at Northwell Health Laboratories on Long Island last week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday broadened the guidelines for coronavirus testing.

Wider testing fails to satisfy officials

BY TOM PRECIOUS
NEWS ALBANY BUREAU CHIEF

ALBANY – It's been a new drumbeat: the federal government is shortchanging New York State when it comes to the testing of residents for the novel coronavirus.

"The federal government has just fallen down on the job," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said early Wednesday on MSNBC.

"Our testing capacity is nowhere near where it needs to be," he later told reporters in Albany.

When it comes to testing, the federal government "remains stuck in the mud," Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer said

See **Testing** on Page A7

Related coverage inside:

• **Workaround:** Telemedicine is helping to keep exposures lower. *Page A5*

• **Trouble Down Under:** Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, say they have tested positive for coronavirus while on location in Australia. *Page A5*

• **Quiet stands:** Spectators barred from hockey tournaments in Amherst, Niagara County and Harborcenter. *Pages A6 and C6*

• **Bull market ends:** The Dow calls a halt to economic surges as coronavirus resists financial efforts to stop it. *Page A6*

• **And in sports ...:** NBA suspends season and quarantines two teams after player, in a preliminary examination, tests positive for coronavirus. *Page A8*

U.S. is suspending travel from Europe for 30 days

BY PETER BAKER
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON – The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus to be a global pandemic Wednesday as stock markets accelerated their plunge; schools, universities, businesses, theaters and sports stadiums shut their doors; and millions of people cut themselves off from their regular lives.

With infections and fear rising, President Trump addressed the nation Wednesday night. Trump announced he was suspending most travel from Europe – except for the UK – for 30 days beginning Friday. The restriction will not apply to U.S. permanent

See **Coronavirus** on Page A6

Series of rulings free immigrants held by ICE

Judges say detainees held without due process

BY PHIL FAIRBANKS
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Terence Enoh is a free man today but it wasn't that long ago that he was in federal custody fighting for something as basic as a bond hearing.

A Cameroon native, Enoh, who initially represented himself, won that legal battle but only after going over the heads of immigration officials to a federal judge in Buffalo.

The judge, clearly frustrated at Homeland Security's handling of the case, ordered Enoh released from the Federal Detention Center in Batavia.

He had been there nearly two years.

In the years that followed Enoh's release, dozens of Batavia detainees – more than 25 last year alone – have gone to court to challenge the government's failure to give them a bond hearing, the first step in possibly gaining back their freedom.

And like Enoh, many of them are winning.

"Putting a person behind bars is far too serious a thing to be done without bothering to look at whether detention is necessary in the first place," said Spencer Durland, one of Enoh's pro bono lawyers.

The increase in court cases is the result, at least in part, of a 2017 U.S. Supreme Court decision that found detained immigrants do not have a statutory right to bond hearings. The court left open the question of whether detainees have a constitutional right to an independent court review.

One of the consequences of the increase in petitions from Batavia is an overall increase in habeas corpus cases being filed here.

In 2019, detainees across the region filed 134 habeas corpus petitions challenging the lawfulness of their detention. The year before, there were 52 petitions.

It's a trend the region's chief judge, already concerned about a backlog of

See **Rulings** on Page A9

CITY & REGION

SLEEK BRIDGE TO SPAN I-190

A decorative pedestrian bridge is planned to go across Route I-190 and connect the new Centennial Park with the West Side neighborhoods that border it. *Story on Page B1*

SUNY colleges shifting to online-only coursework

BY TOM PRECIOUS
NEWS ALBANY BUREAU CHIEF

ALBANY – Hundreds of thousands of public university students in New York State will see an end to their on-campus spring classes after officials Wednesday ordered a shift to online coursework commencing as early as March 19 in the latest attempt to try to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The move, following in the footsteps of a growing number of private colleges, affects all 64 campuses of the State University of New York – including community colleges – as well as the City University of New York.

The news, while not surprising, disrupts plans for college students across the state, interrupts internships and on-campus jobs, and will hurt the economies of dozens of communities that rely heavily on students and their spending on everything from restaurant meals to clothing.

College officials stressed the campuses will not close and that students can still choose to remain in dorms – though they may see all of their classes, depending on their coursework, shift to online-only offerings.

The impact will be sweeping, and students Wednesday were left wondering how aca-

See **SUNY** on Page A6

Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News

Buffalo State is among the 64 SUNY campuses ordered Wednesday to end on-campus classes.

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